



Vote NO on SB 6668 and SB 1178
Wingsite Displays
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Hartford, CT
March 9, 2023
Testifying in opposition to:

SB 6668: An Act Modernizing the Paid Sick Day Statutes

SB 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Steve Perez and I am the Vice President of Wingsite Displays. **I am writing today in opposition to SB 6668 and SB 1178.**

We are a small manufacturer in the exhibit and tradeshow industry. During the pandemic, our industry was 100% shut down. We trimmed our office and warehouse staff while keeping all of our skilled manufacturing staff on board. We had to quickly pivot and were able to provide custom shielding products to schools, restaurants, municipalities, existing customers, banks and various businesses throughout the region. We utilized every federal and state program to stay alive. While it won't shed a tear to many, staying alive also came at a great personal financial expense to myself and my partner.

Our innovative shielding products allowed schools to safely open, bars and restaurants to add capacity, businesses (including office shielding for Moderna in MA) and libraries to bring people back, and our unique bar shielding was modified for use by the Hartford City council chambers.

We were small to begin with – 23 employees and 1 part-time. Post-Covid and industry re-open we are 16 with 1 part-time. We have and continue to provide 24 hours of sick leave and 24 hours of personal time to our employees. That's 48 hours of additional time! We did this not because it's mandated but because we felt it was the right thing to do.

The possibility of this expansion of paid sick leave being mandated to 80 hours would create havoc in the small, small, business community.

Since taking effect in 2012, those subject to the new law saw a cost increase of 2-5%, and there is no tangible data that shows less employee turnover or illness in the workplace.

We already have the most generous paid family and medical leave program in the entire nation.

For the sake of small businesses, **we ask the committee to oppose SB 6668 and SB 1178.**

Sincerely,

Stephen Perez, Vice President